

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

Endogenous precursor cells are manipulated/modified *in situ* to induce the cells, by the application one or more growth factors or similar compounds, to proliferate, differentiate and migrate within the CNS so as to replace lost or non-functional cells.

- 5 The precursor cells are also altered *in situ* (in vivo) so as to secrete a compound which alters the function of other differentiated CNS cells. The endogenous precursor cells can also be treated with one or more growth factors *in situ* in order to increase the yield of stem cells that can be isolated from the adult CNS and proliferated *in vitro*.